

the food of birds, with special reference to the importance of better protection for birds in the State of Montana. A useful list of the principal recent publications on economic ornithology is appended as a partial bibliography of the subject. This timely paper should be of great interest and service to the farmers and fruit-growers of Montana. — J. A. A.

---

## NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. JOHN FANNIN, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home at Victoria, British Columbia, June 20, 1904. From 'Forest and Stream' (issue of July 9, 1904) we learn that "Mr. Fannin was born in the backwoods of Kempville, Ontario, where he passed his boyhood." In 1862, attracted by the news of the discovery of gold in the Caribou district of British Columbia, he joined a party of miners "which proposed to make on foot the journey across the great plains and the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast." The party set out from Fort Garry (now Winnipeg), then a frontier settlement, and after four months of difficulties and hardships reached the Fraser River. For nearly ten years he prospected and mined in different parts of the Province, finding himself as poor financially at the end of the period as when he begun, but with a wealth of useful experience, and an intimate acquaintance with the country, later utilized in the service of the Canadian Government. About twenty-five years ago he settled on the banks of Burrard Inlet, near the present town of New Westminster. "Mr. Fannin had always had a deep love for nature, and here he settled down and began its systematic study, though at first with little knowledge and almost without books. Here . . . without assistance, he taught himself most of the birds and mammals of the region . . . As time went on, his fame as a naturalist spread throughout British Columbia, and when, about sixteen years ago, the Provincial Museum was established at Victoria, Mr. Fannin was made its curator. . . . His services were heartily appreciated by the Government, which in 1895 sent him to Europe and to the United States to study the workings of modern museums." He unselfishly and unceasingly devoted his time and strength to the increase and arrangement of the collections under his charge. His principal contribution to ornithological literature is his 'Check List of British Columbia Birds,' published at Victoria, B. C., in 1891 (*cf.* Auk, IX, 1892, p. 65). He also contributed a few notes on British Columbia birds to 'The Auk,' and was a correspondent of 'Forest and Stream,' and other natural history journals. He was elected an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1888, and a member in 1901.

MR. JAMES MORTIMER SOUTHWICK, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Providence, R. I., June 3, 1904, at the age of 58 years, having been born in Newburyport, Mass., July 10, 1846. He was educated in the public schools of that place, and at the age of sixteen went to Providence, where for many years he was in the dry goods business. In 1883 he started a natural history business, in company with Mr. Fred T. Jencks, under the well-known firm name of Southwick and Jencks, and later, on the retirement of Mr. Jencks, continued the business for some time alone. In connection with the sale of natural history books and specimens, the firm published a monthly journal entitled 'Random Notes on Natural History' (3 vols., 1884-86), which contained many important notes and articles, relating largely to the natural history of Rhode Island, many of them contributed by authors who are now well-known specialists in their respective lines of study. In 1896 he disposed of his natural history business to accept the position of Curator of the Natural History Museum at Roger Williams Park, Providence, R. I., which position he held at the time of his death. As Curator he worked indefatigably, and at times against great discouragements. He succeeded, however, in bringing together a nearly complete collection of the birds of Rhode Island, which in installation and arrangement, including labeling, is a model that may well be followed in other local museums. The results here shown are due to his own untiring efforts and to his earnest solicitations in behalf of the museum. At the time of his death he was Vice-President of the Rhode Island Audubon Society and of the Franklin Society of Providence. He was Bate Entomologist for several years, and was for two years Secretary of the Tree Protection Society, and a member of the Horticultural Society. He was the first to discover the presence of the Gypsy moth in Providence, and did much to aid in the extermination of this and such other destructive insect pests as the elm leaf beetle and the San José scale insect from the city in which he lived.

It was his endeavor to make the museum a means of useful instruction to the public, and he often gave lectures on natural history subjects in his own and neighboring cities, and greatly assisted the teachers of nature study in the public schools. His ornithological publications are not extensive, consisting of various notes on the rarer birds of Rhode Island. From early life his interest in natural history was intense, and he has left in the Roger Williams Park Museum an enduring record of conscientious work.

ARTICLES of incorporation have just been drawn looking to the establishment on a permanent foundation of the 'Worthington Society for the Investigation of Bird Life.' The founder, Mr. Charles C. Worthington, will erect and endow, on his estate at Shawnee, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, the necessary buildings and equipment.

The Worthington Society will have for its purpose the consideration

of bird life as it is found in nature, and will also have many birds under confinement for study and experiment.

The following is a summary of the chief topics that will present an immediate field for experimentation.

I. The study and consideration of a bird as an individual. It is believed that by means of observation carried through the entire life of the individual, with a daily record, brief or elaborate, as exigencies may require, much will be learned regarding matters that are now obscure. Facts, such as growth, habits, health, temper, etc. will be daily reported.

II. The study of the occurrence, extent, nature and cause of variations in different representatives of the same species.

III. Changes in color and appearance correlating with age, sex and season.

IV. Changes in color and appearance due to light, heat, presence or absence of moisture, and to food. How rapid a change in appearance can be affected by a new environment or a new set of conditions?

V. Heredity. What general characteristics are transmitted? Are acquired characteristics transmitted? The consideration of atavism, prepotency and telegony.

VI. Experiments in breeding. Hybridity and the fertility of hybrids. The possibility of establishing a new physiological species.

VII. Experiments in change of color due to moult.

VIII. Adaptability. The plasticity of animals. How great a factor is this in domesticating new kinds of animals?

IX. The leisure of animals. How is this acquired? Being acquired, how is this employed?

X. Instinct, habit, and the development of intelligence.

XI. The possibility of breeding insectivorous and other beneficial kinds of birds to re-stock a given region or to increase native birds, as has been done in the case of fish, by the United States Fish Commission.

A temporary laboratory and aviary is being equipped, and preliminary work will begin with the installment of a large number of native and foreign birds early in September. Mr. Worthington has procured the services of Mr. William E. D. Scott, Curator of the Department of Ornithology at Princeton University, as Director of the proposed work. Mr. Bruce Horsfall has been engaged as chief assistant and artist.

THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Cambridge, Mass., beginning on the evening of Monday, November 28, 1904. The evening session will be for the election of officers and members and for the transaction of routine business. Tuesday and the following days the sessions will be for the presentation and discussion of scientific papers, and will be open to the public. Members intending to present communications are requested to forward the titles of their papers to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn., so as to reach him not later than November 25.